

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
11184 Bristol Air - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region III

Subject: POLREP #7
Additional Sampling and Monitoring
11184 Bristol Air
B3AR
Bristol, VA
Latitude: 36.6029424 Longitude: -82.1539850

To: Michael Towle, EPA
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From: Myles Bartos, OSC

Date: 10/25/2022

Reporting Period: January 1st through May 31st, 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B3AR	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	6/7/2021	Start Date:	5/25/2021
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

This incident is a removal site evaluation at the location continued and numerous ambient air complaints are occurring. The complaints include a description of various chemical smells and related health effects.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site currently includes a large geographic area at/near the Virginia and Tennessee border. Both Virginia and Tennessee have a City of Bristol which are immediately adjacent to each other across the border. Both cities are experiencing significant ambient air complaints from both residential, commercial, and government property owners.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in the Cities of Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The potential threats posed by this Site are currently unknown. Several compounds (odor causing compounds and volatile organic compounds have been identified to be in the air at low levels during various periods of the day. Typically the levels have risen at night. Initial review of the monitoring data and sampling data does not show duration or concentrations that would trigger a removal action. Six weeks of monitoring and sampling have previously been completed during June and July of 2021. A subsequent monitoring and sampling event occurred in October of 2021. Various chemicals have been detected at the various locations.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See previous POLREPs

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

See above and below.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The OSC continues to coordinate and maintain communication with stakeholders that include, but are not limited to the following: Cities of Bristol Virginia and Tennessee, Virginia DEQ, Tennessee DEC, ATSDR, elected officials, consultants, and the public. Internally, the OSC has continued coordination with various EPA programs that may be salient to the Site including the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) and Office of Public Affairs.

The OSC maintained communication with the community and its leadership. The community group has continued its surveys. This includes driving around and noting where odors were present. The community group is reporting reduced Oxygen readings (below 20.9%) during their surveys. The OSC suggested that there may be an interference or calibration issue with the meter since displacing oxygen in ambient conditions (not an enclosed space) is unlikely. The OSC was able to contact the manufacturer (Forensics Detectors) of the meter the community was using and they confirmed readings of less than 20.9% oxygen were due to the unit being out of calibration, condensation, or some other impact not related to oxygen displacement. They offered to calibrate the community's instrument. The OSC forwarded this information to the community leaders in an email on January 28th, 2022.

Sampling was coordinated and scheduled. Due to the public concern that the landfill may be operating differently during periods of EPA's presence (flare and/or other operations are being changed to reduce the odor intensity and frequency), EPA did not announce specific dates or timeframes when the additional sampling will occur. However, the public was informed of the intent to sample and explained why the exact dates would not be publicized prior to sampling.

Beginning on January 24th, EPA initiated additional sampling at 4 discrete locations in the community. Specifically locations #7, #8, #9, and #10. Locations #7-9 are preexisting locations.

Summa canisters were placed and collected three discrete samples from each locations on the following dates:

January 24th into January 25th.
January 25th into January 26th.
February 7th into February 8th.

During the February sampling date, VADEQ placed their own sampling devices (summa canisters) co-located with ours at each of the four locations.

A second round of sampling at the same locations was conducted on the following dates:

April 11th into April 12th
April 12th into April 13th
April 19th into April 20th.

All samples collected by EPA were shipped to EPA's laboratory in Ft Meade for TO15 analysis. Validated results are expected approximately 45 days from final shipment.

At the conclusion of each sampling time frame, EPA notified the interested stakeholders of the sampling. This included local officials and community leaders.

During the first night of the January sampling, ambient air conditions were reported by the public as being "the worst ever". This coincided with jet cleaning of lines within the landfill that occurred on January 24th and 25th. EPA did not intentionally schedule the sampling to coincide with this operation. However, this met EPA's goal of conducting sampling without the public or the landfill knowing prior to the event.

As with previous efforts, EPA conducted mobile air monitoring using handheld instruments. Primary sensors used included Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Oxygen readings remained at 20.9% (normal atmospheric conditions), H₂S at zero parts per million, and VOCs ranged from 0 to 10 parts per billion

EPA continued engagement with stakeholders including the public, local government, state and federal regulators, and public health agencies.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

None identified.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA will continue coordination with the community.

The EPA will continue to engage the various agencies and programs that are salient to the site.

Specifically, EPA OSC will continue to coordinate with the EPA Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) and VADEQ.

EPA will continue evaluation of laboratory data received from the EPA lab as well as VADEQ and provide all data to ATSDR for further evaluation.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will evaluate sampling results and determine if additional ambient air sampling is necessary.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Finalize the RSE and determine if any further action is necessary within the EPA removal program under CERCLA (Superfund).

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ)

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

City of Bristol Virginia
City of Bristol Tennessee
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

4. Personnel On Site

US Environmental Protection Agency
Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

5. Definition of Terms

VOC: Volatile Organic Compound
PID: Photo Ionization Detector
FID: Flame Ionization Detector
SPM: Single Point Monitor.

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

<https://www.forensicsdetectors.com/products/basic-multigas-detector>

<https://www.kleintools.com/catalog/gas-detectors/combustible-gas-leak-detector>